

State of Hawaii

**Temporary Assistance to Needy
Families Program**

State Plan

Department of Human Services

Effective FFY 2000

Part A – Administration

1.0	Organizational Structure.....	Page A-1
2.0	Program Uniformity.....	Page A-1
3.0	Client Protections.....	Page A-2
4.0	Program Integrity.....	Page A-2
5.0	Consultations.....	Page A-3

Part B – Provisions of Assistance

1.0	Application and Redetermination.....	Page B-1
2.0	Assistance Unit.....	Page B-2
3.0	Eligibility, Income and Resources.....	Page B-4
4.0	Benefit Levels.....	Page B-8

Part C – Employment Services

1.0	Goals and Strategies.....	Page C-1
2.0	Work Activities.....	Page C-3
3.0	Work and Participation Requirements.....	Page C-5
4.0	Employment Placement Program.....	Page C-6
5.0	Penalties on Individuals.....	Page C-7
6.0	Grievance Procedures.....	Page C-9
7.0	Special Populations.....	Page C-9
8.0	Supportive Services.....	Page C-10
9.0	Incentives.....	Page C-11

Part D – Waivers

1.0	Continuation of Waivers.....	Page D-1
2.0	Inconsistent Waiver Provisions.....	Page D-1

Part E – Strengthening Families

1.0	Out-of-Wedlock Births.....	Page E-1
2.0	Statutory Rape.....	Page E-3
3.0	Domestic Violence Option.....	Page E-3
4.0	Non-Custodial Parent Programs.....	Page E-3
5.0	Family Preservation Services.....	Page E-3

Part F – Certifications.....

Page F-1

1.0 Organizational Structure

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the single state agency responsible for administering the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program in Hawaii in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. As the designated State IV-A agency, the DHS administers the program in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, with the exception of 1115 waiver provisions that have been identified as inconsistent, and all other applicable Federal laws and regulations and provisions of this State Plan.

Within the organization structure of the DHS, the Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) is responsible for monitoring, supervising, and responding to all issues and questions regarding TANF.

The offices within the BESSD organization that have primary oversight responsibility for the TANF program include the Financial Assistance Program (FAP) staff and the Employment and Child Care Program (E/CCP) staff. The FAP is responsible for the administration of the cash benefit aspect of the TANF program. The E/CCP is responsible for the administration of the TANF work and child care programs.

Eligibility determinations and case management for TANF cash benefits is handled by income maintenance staff at forty-five (45) local offices statewide.

Employment planning and case management for work program activities is handled by employment specialists in sixteen (16) local offices statewide. Of the 16 work program offices, eleven (11) are state offices and five (5) are private agencies with whom the DHS has a contractual relationship to provide work program services.

See Attachment A-1 for an organizational chart of DHS.

2.0 Program Uniformity

The TANF program operates using uniform policies on all islands (counties). All of the department's regulations are promulgated in accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes), which provides the public with an opportunity for notice, review and comment.

Approved regulations are distributed to all BESSD staff responsible for TANF program operations via the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) manual. Policy clarifications and emergency bulletins are also distributed to all affected BESSD staff statewide on an as needed basis.

A-1

3.0 Client Protections

3.1 Confidentiality

The rules regarding the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance are consistent with the rules that guided the program under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act prior to the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The rules protect the rights of individuals and permit the release of information to programs operating in connection with the TANF program; i.e. federally funded or federally assisted programs providing assistance on the basis of need, or for appropriate audit purposes, or to appropriate local, state, and federal law enforcement officials.

Pertinent administrative rules governing confidentiality can be found in HAR, Chapter 601.

3.2 Hearing and Appeal Process

Hawaii provides timely and adequate notice prior to taking an adverse action and provides opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a State administered appeals process. There are set time limits for requesting and holding hearings and for issuing decisions. Hearings are presided over by impartial hearing officers. Clients are allowed to present appeals independently, be represented by legal counsel, bring witnesses, ask questions and cross-examine. If the client is unhappy with the decision rendered by the hearing officer, he or she may appeal to a court of law.

Pertinent administrative rules governing hearings can be found in HAR, Chapter 602.1.

4.0 Program Integrity

The DHS identifies situations in which there are questions of suspected fraud such as, but not limited to a recipient receiving financial assistance to which the individual is not entitled. The suspected fraud may be the result of willful misrepresentation of the individual's circumstances or the intentional concealment of information from the department.

In the BESSD organization, the Investigations Office (INVO) investigates suspected fraud and refers cases, as appropriate, to law enforcement officials.

The methods of investigation used by the department do not infringe on the legal rights of the persons involved and allow these individuals due process of law.

PART A ADMINISTRATION

Pertinent administrative rules governing the department's fraud provisions can be found in HAR, Chapter 604.1.

5.0 Consultations

Hawaii's TANF program is based on the Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO) Program, which is an approved section 1115 welfare reform demonstration project approved on August 16, 1996 and implemented statewide effective December 1, 1996.

Hawaii used a planning task force for the initial development of the PONO program plan. The task force was composed of public and private sector individuals. The plan was presented numerous times in the community with an opportunity for public input and comment. The draft PONO program plan was also presented and discussed at public session of the 1996 Legislature for legislative and public input and comment. All comments and recommendations were considered and many were incorporated into the final PONO program plan.

The final PONO planning document was used to draft administrative rules to govern the program. These rules were promulgated in accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes). The Notice of Public Hearing was published the week of November 10, 1996, in the primary newspapers on each island. The public comment period was from November 10, 1996 through January 2, 1997. A public hearing was held on December 26, 1996. The rules were finalized on January 25, 1997.

The PONO program, which began as an 1115 waiver program in December 1996, was adopted as the official TANF program effective July 1, 1997. As required by section 402 of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, a TANF State Plan was drafted. On April 27, 1997, a Notice of Public Comment Period was published in a primary newspaper on each island. The public comment period was from May 1, 1997 through June 16, 1997.

Once Hawaii was notified that the TANF State Plan was considered complete and qualified Hawaii as a TANF eligible state, administrative rules were promulgated to conform the PONO program to TANF requirements. The most significant change was the formation of a separate, parallel PONO program, solely using State funds, for two parent and non-citizen households.

The Notice of Public Hearing was published the week of August 3, 1997, in a primary newspaper on each island. The public comment period was from August 3, 1997 through September 10, 1997. A public hearing was held on September 3, 1997. The rules were finalized on September 26, 1997.

A-3

PART A ADMINISTRATION

On January 1, 1999, the State exercised the option to implement a domestic violence policy. The domestic violence option and subsequent regulations were developed in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. These two agencies represented a cohort of domestic violence agencies and advocates statewide.

The Notice of Public Hearing was published the week of September 27, 1998, in a primary newspaper on each island. The public comment period was from September 27, 1998 through November 5, 1998. A public hearing was held on October 29, 1998. The rules were finalized on December 12, 1998.

Effective July 1, 1999, Hawaii implemented the Grant + Program. Grant + is a two year, statewide pilot project in which non-profit organizations employ select TANF recipients and accept the recipients' monthly assistance grant to pay a portion of the recipients' wage. The projection is for 100 participants. The Welfare Employment Reform Council (WERC) first envisioned the project. WERC is a group of private and public agencies and interested individuals who advocate for the rights of welfare recipients. Their plan was introduced at public session of the 1997 Legislature. The DHS saw merit in their plan and agreed to form a committee to develop such a program in Hawaii. The program was implemented as a voluntary program effective July 1, 1999. Administrative rules are pending a public hearing.

Also effective July 1, 1999, Hawaii introduced a new monthly work activity requirement for non-exempt TANF households who had been TANF recipients for twenty-four months or more. The monthly work activity concept was presented in the 1999 Legislature in January 1999. From January 1999 through June 1999 the DHS participated in over one hundred community-sponsored forums to present the new monthly work activity requirements. There was an opportunity for public input and comment at these community meetings. DHS promulgated administrative rules to govern this new requirement. The Notice of Public Hearing was published the week of May 24, 1999, in a primary newspaper on each island. The public comment period was from May 24, 1999 through June 25, 1999. A public hearing was held on June 25, 1999. The rules were finalized on July 16, 1999.

1.0 Application and Redetermination

1.1 Access to Benefits and Services

Households wishing to participate in the TANF program must complete and file an application form, be interviewed by an employee designated by the department, and have certain information verified. Applications (Form DHS 1040, "Application for Financial and Food Stamps Assistance") are available in all branch income maintenance units statewide and may also be requested by mail or telephone. Applications may be submitted to any DHS office statewide, but the first day of eligibility can be no earlier than the date an application is received by the appropriate office that services the census tract in which the applicant resides. All branch income maintenance offices are open during regular working hours Monday through Friday, but are closed on all legal holidays.

1.2 Residency Requirements

Applicants/recipients must be residents of the state, but there is no set period of time a person must be living in the state to establish residency. Hawaii treats new families moving to the state the same as families already residing in the state.

1.3 Application Processing Time Frames

The department must make a decision on an application within forty-five days. The forty-five day period begins on the date that the appropriate income maintenance unit receives an application form containing, at a minimum, the applicant's name, address and signature. The forty-five day period ends when financial assistance benefits are authorized or when a notice is mailed to the applicant household that financial assistance has been denied or discontinued.

1.4 Redeterminations

Eligibility redeterminations are required monthly and when the department obtains information about changes in the TANF household's circumstances that may affect the amount of the cash benefit or may make the household ineligible.

A face-to-face review of all eligibility requirements is required every twelve months for all TANF households. To continue receiving financial assistance at the time a redetermination is due, all TANF recipients must:

1. Complete a redetermination form prescribed by the department;
2. Provide information supported by documents to establish eligibility;

3. Be determined to be in need according to the department's appropriate standard of assistance; and
4. Meet the categorical and eligibility requirements of the TANF program.

1.5 Initial Assessment

As part of the application process, the department does an initial assessment of all individuals within thirty (30) days of the date of application. All applicant households are required to sign a DHS 1242, "Memorandum of Understanding" (see Attachment B-1), which explains program requirements and the expectation to work. The initial assessment also includes a determination of mandatory status for each household member sixteen (16) years of age and older (see Attachment B-2). It is also at this point that the domestic violence exemption is introduced (see Attachment B-3).

As a result of the initial assessment, applicants who are determined to be non-exempt adults are referred to the First-to-Work (FTW) Program. Once referred, an individual is called in by FTW for intake and orientation within twelve (12) months. The FTW program conducts an in-depth employability assessment that results in an Employment Plan (EP) and a Support Service Plan (SSP). The EP and the SSP are signed written agreements between the client and the department that outline the employment or training activities to be preformed by the client and the services to be provided by the department.

2.0 **Assistance Unit**

2.1 Age Requirement

Hawaii defines a minor child as a needy child under age eighteen (18), or age eighteen (18) if the child is a full-time student in a secondary school or in a vocational or technical training program of equivalent level.

2.2 Caretaker Relative

A caretaker relative is defined as the designated relative who provides care and supervision to a dependent, minor child. The designated relative may include the following individuals in relation to the minor child:

1. Father, mother, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, uncle half-blood, aunt half-blood, great uncle, great aunt, great uncle half-blood, great aunt half-blood, grandfather, grandmother, great grandfather, great grandmother, first cousin, first cousin once removed, nephew or niece, great-great grandfather, great-great grandmother, great-

- great-great grandfather, great-great-great grandmother, great-great uncle, great-great aunt, great-great uncle half blood, great-great aunt half blood;
2. Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister;
 3. The adoptive parents of a legally adopted child as well as other natural or legally adopted children and relative of the adoptive parents;
 4. A hanai father or hanai mother. Hanai means the child was taken permanently at time of birth or early childhood to be reared, educated, and loved by someone other than the natural parents. In hanai situations, the child is given outright and the natural parents renounce all claims to the child. Natural parents cannot reclaim their child except for death or serious injury to the hanai parents; and
 5. The legally married spouse of any of the persons specified above, even after the marriage has ended in death or divorce.

2.3 Standard Filing Unit

In order for a family to be eligible, an application with respect to a dependent, minor child must include the following individuals, if living in the same household and otherwise eligible:

1. A natural or adoptive parent, except as noted below; and
2. A blood-related or adoptive brother or sister, except as noted below.

In situations where the state has obtained legal custody of a child and has placed that child under the care and supervision of a person other than the parent, the following shall apply:

1. The parental relationship shall not be recognized for the purpose of determining the TANF household composition, even if the natural or adoptive parent is living in the same household; and
2. The sibling relationship shall not be recognized if the natural or adoptive parent is living in the same household and has other children or stepchildren living in the home for whom the state has not obtained legal custody.

In situations where an adopted child is living with both the adoptive parent and a natural parent the following shall apply:

1. The natural parent relationship shall not be recognized for the purpose of determining the TANF household composition; and
2. The sibling relationship shall not be recognized if the natural parent has other children or stepchildren living in the household who have not been adopted.

2.4 Temporarily Absent

In Hawaii temporarily absent means the dependent, minor child or the caretaker relative is not present in the home for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, and from the date of departure there was a planned date of return.

There are no good cause exceptions for temporary absence beyond sixty (60) days.

3.0 Eligibility, Income and Resources

3.1 Pregnant Woman without Other Children

A needy pregnant woman with no other eligible children may be eligible for TANF from the first of the month in which the woman begins her ninth month of pregnancy provided:

1. There is a doctor's written statement to verify the pregnancy; and
2. The pregnant woman and the unborn child together shall be considered as one person for the purposes of the TANF payment.

3.2 Felony Substance Abuse

The 1997 Hawaii Legislature passed Act 128 which specified that Section 115(a) of Public Law 104-193 shall not apply in Hawaii to persons with a felony conviction which has as an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance, provided these individuals are complying with treatment or have not refused or failed to comply with treatment. This statute became permanent when the 1999 Hawaii Legislature passed Act 27 to remove a sunset clause.

3.3 Deprivation Factors

Although not a deprivation factor per se, in order to be eligible for TANF, all the minor children in the household must be living in a single parent or no parent situation. If one child in the standard filing unit has both natural or adoptive parents living in the home, the household would be ineligible for TANF. However, in Hawaii two-parent households may qualify for a parallel program that has the same payment and eligibility requirements as TANF. This program is the Temporary Assistance to Other Needy Families (TAONF) program and is funded exclusively with state dollars. Households that contain at least one needy, minor child who has both parents living in the same would be considered for TAONF eligibility.

3.4 Eligibility for Non-Citizens

Hawaii does not extend TANF eligibility to individuals who are not U. S. citizens. However, in Hawaii non-citizens may qualify for the parallel TAONF program that is funded exclusively with state dollars. Households that contain a needy, minor child that also contains at least one household member who is not a U. S. citizen would be categorically considered for TAONF eligibility. In the TAONF program there are special provisions for the deeming of income and assets of the sponsor of an alien.

3.5 Income Eligibility

To determine eligibility the household must meet specific financial (income and resources) requirements. The prospective income (earned, unearned and in-kind), of each household member is evaluated. If not excluded by rule or regulation, the income is tested prospectively against the gross income standard, the standard of need (SON), and the standard of assistance (SOA) according to household size. If the family fails any of these tests, the household is not eligible for benefits.

The State Legislature sets the income standards at a percentage of the federal poverty index (FPI). The gross income standard is 185% of the standard of need. The standard of need is 100% of the FPI established for 1993. The standard of assistance is 62.5% of the standard of need. TANF households that contain an able-bodied adult have the standard of assistance reduced to 50% of the standard of need after the household has received two full months of assistance at the 62.5% standard.

The household's countable prospective income (earned, unearned and in-kind) is first tested against the gross income standard. To pass this test, the household's countable monthly gross income must be equal or less than the standard for the household size. If the household passes this test the household moves to the net income test. The net income test also takes into account the household's monthly countable gross earned, unearned and in-kind income. A 20% disregard of the monthly gross earned income is allowed if the household has not received assistance in one of the prior four months. If the household has received assistance in one of the prior four months, all the income disregards are allowed to determine the net income. Once the net income is determined, the amount is compared to the SON by household size. If the household passes this test, the household moves to the standard of assistance test, whereby the net income is determined by allowing all the earned income disregards. The net income is then compared to the SOA (62.5% or 50% depending on the household's circumstances) and the difference is the eligible financial assistance payment amount.

B-5

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

The earned income of a child who is a full-time student or a part-time student who is not a full-time employee is excluded in determining financial assistance eligibility (gross income and SON tests) and payment amount (SOA).

3.6 Earned Income Disregards

Earned income disregards are subtracted from the monthly gross earned income of each wage earner in the assistance unit as follows:

1. Deduct a standard deduction of 20%;
2. From the remainder, deduct a flat rate of two hundred dollars;
3. From the remainder, deduct a variable rate deduction of 36%; and
4. From the remainder, deduct an amount equal to the actual cost for the care of each incapacitated adult living in the same household and receiving financial assistance, but not to exceed:
 - A. \$175 a month if the applicant or recipient is employed full time; or
 - B. \$165 a month, if the applicant or recipient is employed less than full time.

3.7 Deemed Income and Resources

TANF has specific deeming requirements when there is a: 1) husband, wife or parent living in the same home, but not on assistance due to SSN or IPV disqualification; 2) stepparent living in the same home but not on assistance; and 3) parent of a teen parent living in the same home and not on assistance. The deeming provisions are as follows:

Husband, wife or parent living in the same home:

1. All non-exempt assets of the husband, wife or parent shall be considered available to the financial assistance household and considered in the personal reserve;
2. Obtain the monthly total earned and unearned income of the individual not included in the financial assistance payment;
3. From the individual's monthly gross earned income, deduct the standard deduction of twenty per cent;
4. From the remainder, subtract the amount paid for the care of each incapacitated adult living in the same household and included in the financial assistance payment not to exceed \$175 if the individual is employed full-time or \$165 if the individual is employed less than full time;
5. From the remainder, deduct the difference between the following standards of assistance:
 - A. The first standard shall include the needs of all the individuals included in the financial assistance payment and the needs of individual and other individuals not included in the financial assistance payment, provided such other individuals may be claimed by the individual as dependents for federal income tax purposes.

B-6

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

- B. The second standard shall include the needs of the individuals included in the financial assistance payment.
6. All the remaining income shall be considered available to meet the needs of the individuals receiving financial assistance.

Stepparent:

1. All non-exempt assets of the stepparent shall be considered available to the financial assistance household and considered in the personal reserve;
2. Obtain the monthly total earned and unearned income of the stepparent;
3. From the stepparent's monthly gross earned income, deduct a standard deduction of twenty per cent;
4. From the remainder, subtract the department's specified standard of need to meet the needs of the stepparent and any other dependents who are living in the home who are not part of the financial assistance unit;
5. From the remainder, subtract the actual amount paid by the stepparent for the support of dependents who are not living in the home (e.g. child attending school away from home);
6. From the remainder, subtract all payments made by the stepparent for alimony and child support for persons not living in the household.
7. All the remaining income shall be considered available to meet the needs of the individuals receiving financial assistance.

Parent of a teen parent living in the same home:

Deeming is the same as that of the stepparent, except the parent of a teen parent is allowed all the earned income disregards (i.e. 20%, \$200 and 36%).

3.8 Resources

The personal reserve standard is set at \$5,000 for all TANF households. All cash and personal property that is not exempt is counted in the personal reserve.

One motor vehicle is excluded from the personal reserve, regardless of value.

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

4.0 Benefit Levels

4.1 Benefit Standards

HH SIZE	SON	1 SOA	2 SOA	HH SIZE	SON	1 SOA	2 SOA	HH SIZE	SON	1 SOA	2 SOA
1	670	418	335	6	1845	1153	922	11	3020	1887	1510
2	905	565	452	7	2080	1300	1040	12	3255	2034	1627
3	1140	712	570	8	2315	1446	1157	13	3490	2181	1745
4	1375	859	687	9	2550	1593	1275	14	3725	2328	1862
5	1610	1006	805	10	2785	1740	1392	15	3960	2475	1980
								15+	+235	+146	+117

1. *Standard of Need is the 100% Federal Poverty Level Standard established by the federal government effective July 1, 1993. Changes in the standard of need shall be adjusted annually per legislative approval.*
2. *Standard of Assistance is 62.5% of the Standard of Need, applicable to AFDC, AABD categories, and Refugees receiving General Assistance.*
3. *Standard of Assistance is 50% of the Standard of Need, applicable to mandatory work required AFDC households, effective February 1997.*

4.2 New Residents

Hawaii treats new families moving to the state the same as families already residing in the state.

4.3 Benefit Issuance

Financial assistance is issued on a monthly basis to eligible TANF households as direct cash assistance in the form of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) or imprest check.

5.0 Time Limits

5.1 60 Month Time Limit

Receipt of TANF assistance is limited to sixty (60) months for a lifetime of all applicant and recipient households, unless the household meets the definition of an exempt household as defined in section 5.3.

A non-exempt household is one in which at least one adult member is not an exempt adult as defined in section 5.3. A time eligible month is credited to each adult in a non-exempt household for each month that assistance is received. The actual determination of the number of months of assistance that has been received by a non-exempt household is based on the primary adult. The primary adult is defined as the adult in the non-exempt household that has the greatest number of time eligible months.

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

The department does not count months of assistance received as a dependent child.

A countable month of assistance begins with the first month a TANF household receives assistance on or after December 1, 1996.

5.2 24+- Month Work Activity

All adult TANF applicants and recipients are required to participate in a work component from the household's twenty-fifth (25th) time eligible month, unless exempt. A non-exempt household that fails to meet this requirement shall be ineligible for one month as follows:

1. An applicant household shall be ineligible in the month of application through the month of determination.
2. A recipient household shall be ineligible in a future month for each month that the requirement is not met.

Participating in a work component for the purpose of meeting the 24+-month work activity requirement is defined as doing any of the following within a calendar month:

1. Paid employment of any number of hours;
2. Unpaid volunteer work in a public or non-profit business or organization of at least four (4) hours;
3. Satisfactory participation in an organized job training program;
4. Actively participating in a First-to-Work program component activity;
5. Receiving unemployment insurance benefits (UIB);
6. Attending a school of secondary education at least half-time, provided the non-exempt adult does not have a high school diploma or general education development (GED);
7. Attending a school of post-secondary education at least halftime.

5.3 Exempt Households

A household is an exempt household if all the adult members meet one of the following criteria:

1. Ill, incapacitated, or disabled a minimum of thirty (30) days, as determined by the department on the basis of medical or other competent evidence;
2. Sixty years of age or older;
3. Need in the home to care for another household member who is ill, incapacitated, or disabled, as determined by the department on the basis of medical or other competent evidence;

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

4. The parent or other relative caretaker of a child under six months of age who is personally providing care for the child;
5. Non-needy;
6. An Americorps/Vista volunteer;
7. A victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 5.4.
8. Any other adult in an assistance unit that contains a domestic violence victim, as defined in section 5.4.

Any month that a household is determined to be an exempt household is not counted as a time eligible month. Exempt adults are not referred to the First-to-Work program and they are not required to do the 24+-month work activity.

5.4 Domestic Violence Exemption

Hawaii certified in the TANF State Plan submitted April 1, 1997, that the state intended to implement a domestic violence policy, but that regulations were pending development. The regulations were subsequently developed in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and were promulgated into law effective December 12, 1998. The project was implemented statewide on January 1, 1999.

Hawaii's domestic violence policy requires that applicants and recipients be given written notice of their right to claim a family violence exemption. When domestic violence is disclosed, the applicant or recipient is given a second notice that which explains the criteria that must be met to be granted the exemption. These notices are issued at the point of initial application, reapplication and at each eligibility review or at any time that a client discloses domestic violence. If domestic violence is disclosed a brochure is given to the client that provides information on where to get help.

An individual is considered to be a victim of domestic violence if he or she:

1. Has a current court order protecting him or her from a spouse, former spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend;
2. Is a party to a pending divorce or custody action which involves issues of current or past domestic violence;
3. Within the past two years, has stayed in a domestic abuse shelter;
4. Within the past two years has stayed with a friend or relative after having fled the home to escape or avoid domestic violence, as supported by a sworn statement from that friend or relative. If the friend or relative is not available, another person who has personal knowledge of the domestic violence situation may provide a sworn statement;

B-10

PART B ASSISTANCE

PROVISIONS OF

5. Within the past two years, has been a victim of an incident of domestic violence which resulted in the arrest, arraignment or conviction of the alleged perpetrator of the violence;
6. Within the past two years, has been in inpatient or outpatient treatment for psychological, physical or emotional abuse resulting from domestic violence;
7. Within the past two years, has been hospitalized, been in community placement or received emergency room treatment for medical or psychological injuries resulting from domestic violence; or
8. Within the past two years, has been subject to threats of death or grievous bodily injury to self or family and loved ones by a spouse, former spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend.

Applicants and recipients who request an exemption due to domestic violence are required to submit evidence to substantiate their claim. If the client is unable to provide acceptable evidence, a referral can be made to one of the domestic violence agencies that have agreed to do domestic violence assessments for the department. Based on their assessment, the domestic violence agency will make a recommendation to the department whether the exemption should be allowed.

If the exemption is granted the applicant/recipient will be exempt from the five-year time limit and work requirements for a one-year period. The other adult in the assistance unit that contains a domestic violence victim is automatically exempt from time limits and work requirements during the one-year period. Extensions to the one-year domestic violence exemption may be allowed if there has been a new incident of domestic violence and provided that the household becomes active with a domestic violence agency and the perpetrator of the violence is not a member of the assistance unit.

Hawaii is not requesting federal approval for the above domestic violence exemptions. Therefore, victims of domestic violence are not excluded in the calculation of Hawaii's TANF participation rate.

5.5 Extensions to the Time Limit

At the conclusion of the sixty (60) month time limit, all non-exempt adult assistance unit members who are unsuccessful at finding employment will be subject to a compliance review conducted by a designated income maintenance worker or FTW case manager. The assistance unit will be granted an extension if all non-exempt adult members of the assistance unit are determined to be making a good faith effort to find employment and have satisfactorily fulfilled approved employment training activity requirements. The extension shall be reviewed and may be renewed every three (3) months.

1.0 Goals and Strategies

1.1 Goals and Objectives

Hawaii's TANF program provides assistance to needy families with (or expecting) children and provides parents with job preparation, work and support services that enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. This is accomplished through strategies implemented in the Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO) welfare reform program which delivers cash assistance and the First-to-Work (FTW) program which provides employment preparation and support services.

The PONO program is the eight-year research and demonstration waiver project approved August 16, 1996, under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. The PONO program was implemented statewide on February 1, 1997. The following statements were used as guiding principles in the design of the PONO program:

1. Welfare is temporary and not a way of life;
2. Parents, not government, are responsible for the support and maintenance of their children;
3. Parents who are able to work, must work;
4. Families must be financially better off by going to work than staying on welfare.

To achieve these objectives, the PONO program uses a combination of positive and negative incentives to challenge applicants and recipients to move away from welfare dependency and toward a future of self-reliance. The negative incentives include the five-year time limitation and welfare grant reductions for households that contain at least one non-exempt adult. The positive incentives include an increased resource limit, exclusion of one vehicle from asset consideration, exclusion of the earned income of dependent children who are full-time students, exclusion of all educational loans, grants and scholarship, and increased earned income disregards so that a family remains eligible for welfare assistance until their gross income exceeds 185% or net earned income exceeds 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) by household size (Note: Hawaii's FPL is legislatively capped at the FPL for 1993).

1.2 Models or Other Effective Practices Used

Hawaii chose to use a labor attachment model to assist TANF recipients in becoming employed. The program is entitled First-to-Work (FTW). Within this program, there are components that are designed to assist recipients in becoming employed very quickly in either full or part-time employment. The model that this program emulates is similar to ones that were discussed nationally in relation to the Riverside, California GAIN Program. In addition, Hawaii has included an On-the-Job (OJT) training component

referred to as the Transitional Opportunity Program or TOP. This program is patterned somewhat after the Oregon JOBS Plus model. The similarity is that employers are given the opportunity for up to six months of participant OJT effort with very little obligation to cover expenses. There is no wage requirement, no Unemployment Insurance requirement, and no health insurance requirement. This approach differs from Oregon in that Hawaii does not pass through the grant for diversion but rather increases the welfare grant. Under PONO, the grant is reduced by 20% for households that include at least one adult who can work. The 20% reduction is not imposed on TOP participants.

Hawaii most recently implemented the Grant + Program effective July 1, 1999. Grant + is broadly patterned after the work supplementation models funded by the Family Support Act of 1988. The Grant + Program provides participants with subsidized employment in the private, non-profit sector. Participants are screened and hired by an employer and they receive training as well as valuable work experience while they are on the job. The participant meets federally defined work requirements and receives earned income. The employer in return gets an employee who may be trained at a reduced cost and also receives a flat grant of \$650 per family, which the department diverts to the employer to subsidize the participant's wages.

In addition to the labor attachment features, Hawaii has an educational component referred to as Skill Building. In this component, once participants become employed at least 18 hours per week, they are allowed to educate with support. This feature was extrapolated from the Waiver program granted to Hawaii entitled, "Creating Work Opportunities for Hawaii's Families", which was eventually merged into the PONO waiver. Hawaii is not aware that other States use this approach, but local experience was adequate to convince us to run the program in this manner.

All other components offered under the program are the traditional education, training, and work activities. Hawaii believes the combination of these activities provides the best opportunities to assist TANF participants to become self-sufficient.

1.3 Numerical Goals

The numerical goals and activities established for the program are as set in federal law. Every effort will be made to achieve the mandated 40% participation rate for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 AND 45% for FFY 2001.

Hours of work are set in the PONO waiver as up to eighteen hours per week in unsubsidized employment for non-exempt participants who are awaiting education or training opportunities. All other participants must meet participation requirements established by federal law.

2.0 Work Activities

Individuals who are determined to be non-exempt are referred immediately to the FTW program. Upon selection from the FTW referral pool, participants are scheduled for intake and orientation. A screening instrument is also administered at this point to determine psychosocial, health, educational/skill, employment, and communication barriers to employment. Following intake/orientation, the participant is scheduled for reading and math tests, and a preliminary interview. The results of the testing and interview are scored and summarized to determine if the participant moves on to Employability Assessment or referral to an in-unit social worker for an in-depth Barrier Assessment. The Employability and Barrier Assessments will result in the development of an Employment Plan and assignment to work activities.

FTW participants are expected to perform 32 hours per week of overall participation to simulate a full-time work week. Of the overall participation requirement, 20 hours per week must include participation in allowable work activities. Allowable work activities include:

1. Unsubsidized employment
2. Subsidized private sector employment

The Grant + Program provides participants with subsidized employment in the private, non-profit sector. Participants are screened and hired by an employer and they receive training as well as valuable work experience while they are on the job. The participant meets federally defined work requirements and receives earned income. The employer in return gets an employee who may be trained at a reduced cost and also receives a flat grant of \$650 per family which the department diverts to the employer to be used to subsidize the participant's wages.

3. Work experience, if private sector employment is not available

The Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) provides unsalaried work experience and training in the public sector. It is used when private sector employment is not available and it is determined that the TANF recipient needs this type of experience to enable them to adjust and learn how to function in an employment setting. CWEP activities serve as a training environment to improve the employability potential of participants and at the same time serve a useful public purpose.

4. On-the-job training

The Transitional Opportunity Program or TOP program places TANF recipients in full time training positions in the private sector for up to six months. Recipients continue to

receive a TANF grant and are not subject to the 20% grant reduction for the duration of the OJT. Employers are given the opportunity for up to six months of participant OJT effort with very little obligation to cover expenses. There is no wage requirement, no Unemployment Insurance requirement, and no health insurance requirement. When trainees successfully complete their training program, the employer is expected to hire them. The employer has an opportunity to select, train and evaluate the potential candidates for employment with no wage cost during the six month OJT assignment.

Employers, who hire their trainees, are expected to hire them for full time employment at the current market wage for comparable work.

5. Job search and job readiness assistance without time limitations

These are employment directed activities in which participants engage in activities with the immediate goal of obtaining full or part-time employment. Job search is directed to the individual participant's needs and local job market conditions and may serve participants in either group or individual job-seeking activities, or a combination of both methods. Individual job search includes counseling, information dissemination and support on a one-to-one basis. Group job search includes the provision of counseling and training in a group setting where participants are taught job-seeking skills, and may include a phone bank from which participants contact potential employers.

Due to the PONO waiver, there is no limit to the number of weeks that can be spent in job search and job readiness assistance.

6. Community service programs

When a participant has a court order for community service, that activity is incorporated into the Employability Plan.

7. Vocational education training

This is an activity involving institutional or other classroom training conducted by an instructor in either a worksite or non-worksite setting. Participants receive instruction in specific occupational areas. This activity must be combined with a work activity. Per the PONO waiver, there is no limit to the time spent in this activity.

8. Job skills training directly related to employment

This component is designed to provide job training and other preparatory services for TANF participants. Such services include, but are not limited to instructional skills training, on-the-job training, work experience and retraining. Such services are utilized where there is potential for upgrading a participant's skills and employment prospects. Job skills training must be combined with a work activity. Per the PONO waiver, there is no limit to the time spent in this activity.

9. Education directly related to employment

This is a post-secondary educational activity offered at community colleges or post-secondary vocational training programs that lead to recognized careers for which there is or will be a demand in the job market. This activity must be combined with a work. Per the PONO waiver, there is no limit to the time spent in this activity.

10. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or course of study leading to general educational development (GED) if the recipient has not finished secondary school

A custodial parent under twenty years of age who has not completed high school or an equivalent course of education is required to participate in educational activities. The educational activities entail satisfactory attendance in high school or GED program.

11. Provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program

This activity involves the provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community services program or other State approved employment-directed program.

3.0 Work and Participation Requirements

3.1 Ready to Engage in Work

Hawaii requires a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the PONO program to engage in work once the parent or caretaker is determined ready to engage in work or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the PONO program for 24 months, whichever is earlier. An applicant's/recipient's work program status is determined at application, eligibility review, and whenever the individual's circumstances have changed. Individuals who are determined to be non-exempt are referred immediately to the FTW

program. All individuals referred to FTW who are not employed or who are employed but working less than 18 hours per week, will be selected for services as soon as there is a caseload opening, but no later than 24 months from date of referral.

3.2 Community Service Employment

Hawaii does not require community service employment for parents or caretaker relatives who are not exempt and not engaged in work after two months on assistance.

3.3 Satisfactory Attendance

Satisfactory attendance for teen heads of households who are attending secondary school or education directly related to employment is defined as up to three unexcused absences per semester. More than three unexcused absences would result in a sanction.

3.3 Child Care Exemption

Hawaii allows an exemption for single custodial parents who care for children under six (6) months of age.

3.4 Child Care Not Available

There is no sanction or penalty for a single custodial parent with a child under the age of six (6) who does not work due to the unavailability of child care. A FTW participant who cannot find suitable child care may be deferred until such time as child care can be located. FTW staff will follow through by making referrals to child care resources and reviewing the case once each month to determine the availability of care. Once care is located, the participant will be activated and required to participate.

4.0 **Employment Placement Program**

Hawaii is operating an employment placement program. Part of this program involves department staff negotiating job placement opportunities with private and public sector employers. In addition, the department has a contract with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct job development activities on behalf of clients. Clients are also referred to DLIR for Welfare-to-Work opportunities funded through the U. S. Department of Labor.

5.0 Penalties on Individuals**5.1 Penalty for Noncompliance**

When a recipient who is required to participate in the FTW program fails or refuses without good cause to participate in the FTW program, refuses without good cause to accept full time employment, terminates full time employment without good cause, or reduces full time employment to less than full time without good cause, the entire household shall be sanctioned as follows:

1. For the first such failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases;
2. For the second such failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases, or two months, whichever is longer; and
3. For any subsequent failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases, or three months, whichever is longer.

5.2 Good Cause Provisions

Good cause exists under the following circumstances:

1. The individual is the primary caretaker personally providing care for a child under six months of age;
2. Child care for a child under six year of age is necessary for the individual to participate or continue participation in the FTW program or accept employment and such care is not available;
3. The employment would result in the family of the participant experiencing a net loss of cash income;
4. The employment that was terminated was less than full time.

The department shall consider other circumstances beyond the individual's control in determining whether there was good cause. Examples of circumstances beyond the individual's control include, but shall not be limited to:

1. Illness of the individual which is verified by a medical statement from a licensed physician or psychologist;
2. The individual's presence is required on a continual basis due to the illness of another family member and is verified by a medical statement from a licensed physician or psychologist;
3. The individual is experiencing a family crisis or change of individual or family circumstances, such as death of an immediate family member, the family is currently homeless, or the family experienced a natural disaster;

4. Wages are below the state statutory minimum wage;
5. The working conditions would adversely affect or endanger the health and safety of the individual;
6. The conditions of employment violate state laws related to:
 - A) Providing temporary disability insurance, worker's compensation, or health care benefits;
 - B) Providing wages due on a timely basis; or
 - C) Discriminatory practices;
7. The employment or FTW component is beyond the individual's ability or there is a psychological or physical reason for the individual not being able to perform satisfactorily in the component or job;
8. Acceptance of an offer of employment that did not materialize;
9. Self-employment that did not produce income equivalent to eighteen hours of employment at the state minimum wage after business expenses are deducted;
10. The individual's assignment in the FTW program was not within the scope of the employment plan developed between the individual and the department;
11. An individual's participation in a FTW program component would interfere with the participant's unsubsidized employment;
12. The individual was required to participate in a FTW component or work more hours than the maximum hours determined appropriate for the individual;
13. Acceptance of employment or participation in a FTW component would result in the individual violating the individual's religious beliefs;
14. Acceptance of employment, training, or education would require the individual to go to a site involved in a labor dispute;
15. The individual ends a sporadic work relationship that does not offer a reasonable possibility for permanent full time employment and the individual is available to work full time; or
16. The individual's failure was the result of being a victim of domestic violence.

5.3 Mandatory School Attendance

Hawaii does not impose a sanction on a family for failure to ensure that minor dependent children attend school.

5.4 Secondary Education for Adults

Hawaii does not require and does not impose a sanction on a family that includes an adult who is older than 20 and younger than 51, if the adult does not have and is not working toward a high school diploma or equivalency. However, it is consistent with Hawaii's education policy to allow an adult to work toward a high school diploma or equivalency if combined with a work activity.

6.0 Grievance Procedures

The department has an agreement with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to utilize a process that parallels the Joint Training and Partnership Act (JTPA), “Grievance Procedure for Sub-recipients”. Grievances include an opportunity for informal resolution.

The informal grievance process is composed of two stages. Complaints are presented to the supervisor of the DHS unit affected by the grievance. This is the unit that services the client whose placement negatively impacted another employee. The unit supervisor must resolve the grievance informally within 10 working days. If the complainant is not satisfied with this resolution, they may proceed to the second stage, which is presenting the complaint to the Program Administrator. The Program Administrator must also issue a decision within 10 working days.

Persons dissatisfied with attempts at formal resolution may request a hearing with the State. Hearings are conducted by the Department of Human Services Administrative Appeals Office. The hearing must be held within 30 working days of the filing for an appeal and a decision must be issued within 60 working days of the appeal being filed. Challenges of this decision must be filed with the Administrative Law Judges, U. S. Department of Labor, within 20 working days of receiving an unfavorable ruling from the department’s administrative appeal decision.

7.0 Special Populations

7.1 Noncustodial Minor Parents

Hawaii does not require noncustodial, non-supporting minor parents to fulfill community work obligations and attend appropriate parenting or money management classes after school.

7.2 Other Populations

Hawaii does not provide special treatment to any other populations under its TANF program.

8.0 Supportive Services

8.1 Supportive Services to Active TANF Recipients

All TANF recipients who are employed or active with FTW are eligible for a child care subsidy. The subsidy is based on the hours of child care provided or the hours of the parent's employment, whichever is less. Once the need is established the subsidy is actual cost up to the established maximum by type of care. There is no limit to the length of time that child care can be provided.

See Attachment C-1 for child care payment limits.

In addition to child care, TANF recipients who are active with the First-to-Work Program may be eligible for transportation costs, training and one-time work-related expenses, educational expenses, and treatment services.

See Attachment C-2 for transportation payment limits.

See Attachment C-3 for training and one-time work-related payment limits.

Educational expenses are allowed as paid and verified with the institution. However, the recipient is required to apply for financial aid and to reimburse the department for any duplicative benefits received.

8.2 Supportive Services for Former TANF Recipients

The state provides child care to all TANF families who become ineligible as a result of new or increased earned income. Eligibility for child care continues until the households income exceeds the child care eligibility standard. To meet the child care eligibility standard the household's adjusted gross income must be equal to or less than 75% of state median income.

See Attachment C-4 for child care income eligibility limits.

The state also provides transitional medical for all households who become ineligible for TANF due to new or increased income. These families are eligible for six months of medical with a possible extension of another six months if they meet the income standard. The income eligibility standard for these families for the second six months is set at 200% of FPL.

See Attachment C-5 for the medical assistance standards.

Successful TANF recipients who will be exiting the program due to excess income may be eligible for one-time only work related expenses.

C-10

9.0 Incentives**9.1 Bonuses or Stipends**

Hawaii does not offer bonuses or stipends to individuals engaging in work activities.

9.2 Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)

The department will not administer an Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) program for TANF recipients. However, the department will recognize IDAs established by other approved agencies for the benefit of TANF recipients. The department has been working with the Hawaii Individual Development Accounts Collaboration and Alu Like, Inc. to develop the needed guidelines and procedures. Both of these agencies were recently awarded “Assets for Independence” grants from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. When a final agreement is reached, the department will draft the necessary administrative rules to support this IDA program.

PART D WAIVERS

1.0 Continuation of Waivers

1.1 1115 Waiver Demonstrations

Hawaii's TANF plan basically mirrors welfare reform policies approved as a section 1115 waiver demonstration, and the underlying AFDC and JOBS provisions that were not waived. Hawaii's demonstration project, "Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO)" Program, was approved on August 16, 1996.

1.2 Policy Differences

There are no policy differences between Hawaii's TANF plan and the PONO waiver.

1.3 Demonstration Dates

The PONO waiver was approved as an eight-year demonstration project. PONO is the statewide welfare reform program. The program began December 1, 1996 and will end on November 31, 2004.

2.0 Inconsistent Waiver Provisions

Hawaii's PONO program policies that are inconsistent with TANF requirements, as specified in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, are within the scope of the waiver that was approved on August 16, 1996.

Specific inconsistencies that Hawaii chooses to continue with respect to work and time limits and the applicable standards that will apply are as follows:

Section 407 (a)(2) - Participation Rate Requirements: 2-Parent Families

Section 407 (b)(2) - Calculation of Participation Rates: 2-Parent Families

Section 407 (c)(1)(B) - Engaged in Work: 2-Parent Families

The state of Hawaii shall be held harmless for these provisions as Hawaii has developed a separate state program for 2-parent families and is, therefore, not required to meet the above work requirements for non-TANF households.

PART D WAIVERS

Section 407 (b)(1) - Calculation of Participation Rates: All Families

Section 408 (a)(7)(C)(ii) – Hardship Exception

Receipt of TANF cash benefits will be limited to 60 months within the period of this demonstration for all applicants and recipient assistance units, unless one or more of the exemptions/extensions specified below are met:

- 1) Exemptions from Time-Limited Assistance: Where all adult members, or the minor parent where he or she is the head of household, are exempt for one or more of the following reasons, an assistance unit will be exempt from the 60-month time limit for those months during which the circumstance (s) exist:
 - a) No eligible adult in the assistance unit (except for minor heads of households);
 - b) During a period of incapacity or disability which lasts for a minimum of 30 days;
 - c) Caring for a child under 6 months of age;
 - d) In-home care must be provided for an ill or incapacitated assistance unit member;
 - e) Over age 60;
 - f) Americorp/Vista volunteer.
- 2) Extensions to the Time Limits: At the conclusion of the 60-month time limit all non-exempt adult assistance unit members who are unsuccessful at finding employment will be referred to a case manager for review. If the case manager determines the recipient has been making a good faith effort to find a job and has satisfactorily fulfilled approved employment training activity requirements, the assistance unit will be granted a 3 month extension. The case manager will repeat this review process at 3 month intervals until the recipient either secures employment or fails to satisfactorily fulfill approved employment training activity requirements, at which time the benefits will be terminated for the entire assistance unit. In the case of a minor parent head of household, if the minor parent is still participating in educational activities, the case manager will extend benefits as appropriate. If a former recipient adult caretaker reapplies for assistance for his or her family because the adult caretaker has become unemployed without fault, a case manager or other designated State official will make a similar determination regarding the resumption and continuance of assistance.

PART D WAIVERS

Section 407 (c)(1)(A) - Engaged in Work: All Families

Non-exempt recipients participating in First-to-Work (FTW) and exempt recipients who have volunteered for FTW may be required to apply for and, if offered, accept temporary unsubsidized employment developed by a FTW case manager if they:

- 1) are awaiting assignment to education or training activities in the FTW program; or
- 2) are determined to be facing at least 3 months wait before being able to enter such activities.

Recipients awaiting education or training under the above circumstances shall meet the participation rate requirement if working up to 18 hours per week in unsubsidized employment. Participant grants will be reduced by the total amount of wages paid after all appropriate disregards have been applied.

Section 407 (c)(2)(A) - Number of Weeks for which Job Search Counts as Work

Recipients who: 1) initially meet the criteria for minimal job readiness; or 2) meet the criteria for minimal job readiness after successful remediation, will be required to participate in a job search activity focusing on part-time temporary private sector positions developed by FTW case managers. The job search activity will continue until the participant is placed either in part-time private sector employment or into another FTW activity.

Section 407 (d)(8)(9)(10) - Work Activities Defined

Under the PONO waiver, FTW participants are considered to be awaiting education and, as such, there is no limit on the length of time that a client can participate in vocational education training, job skills training, or educational activities.

1.0 Out-of-Wedlock Births

In 1995, the “Children’s Vision”, a benchmarking initiative was started with 6,000 young people describing the type of Hawaii they wanted to live in. In September 1995, the Hawaii Adolescent Wellness Team was formed to attend a two-day Maternal and Child Health conference. The Wellness Team committed to developing a holistic framework and resource document. The Hawaii’s Adolescent Wellness Plan – Laulima In Action (or many hands working together) was the result of that commitment. In May 1997, Laulima In Action was finalized as a systemic approach in moving Adolescent Wellness forward on multiple levels. This plan has identified specific goals from inception through the year 2010.

The Department of Human Services is a member of the Adolescent Wellness Team.

Some of the Laulima In Action activities include:

Community Adolescent Wellness Teams: Fourteen community teams piloted Laulima In Action: in July 1996, developing diverse teams (including youth) and vision statements; reviewing existing needs (including Healthy and Hawaii People 2000 Objectives in the plan) and sharing this with the community; selecting critical indicators; adopting benchmarks; developing action plans and stakeholder agreements. There is an on-going coordination with 10 statewide community teams to plan for pregnancy prevention and assistance for parenting teens.

The “Adolescent Wellness Plan” was also part of this effort and incorporated the reduction and prevention of out of wedlock pregnancies among its goals. The goals focused on the sexual activities of adolescents between 12 and 19 years of age. This is a primary age group for out of wedlock births and the area over which the state felt it could have the greatest impact in preventing out of wedlock births. Specifically the applicable goals are to:

1. Reduce the onset of early sexual involvement/activity among adolescents. The goal was to reduce this behavior by 1.3% between 1997 and 1999. The goal for 2000 through 2010 is to reduce this behavior by 10 % with 1995 as the benchmark year.
2. Increase the use of contraception among sexually active adolescents. The goal was to increase this behavior by 2.1% between 1997 and 1999. The goal for 2000 through 2010 is to increase this behavior by 10% with 1995 as the benchmark year.
3. Reduce pregnancies among adolescent females. The goal was to reduce teen pregnancies by 3.2% between 1997 and 1999. The goal for 2000 and 2010 is to reduce this number by 12% with 1995 as the benchmark year. These goals will be evaluated and may be re-described in 2000 based on the 1999 findings. The evaluation process is scheduled to begin in March 2000.

Basic Concepts in Identifying the Health Needs of Adolescents: Over 800 individuals (30 trained as trainers) worked on improving assessment and communication skills with adolescents. Efforts continue to expand trainers and implementing the curriculum as best practices approach of adolescent wellness initiative. In 2000 and 2001, these activities include the initiation of a new program. "Live Your Life Before You Make One" is a statewide educational campaign aimed at preventing teen pregnancies.

Abstinence Grant: The Boys and Girls Club implemented at four sites the nationally recognized "Smart Moves" curricula targeting 9-12 year old youth, their families/significant adults. Peer and adult mentor offer resistance skill education and community prevention teams to support curricula and program continuance. This program will continue.

Peer Helping Peer Model: The Peer Education Program is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Health and Education in twenty-six (26) schools statewide. Peer educators are taught healthy decision making skills and provide accurate information to other youth on risky behaviors related to substance use, pregnancy, depression and suicide, HIV/AIDS and STDs. This program will continue.

Middle School Survey and Expansion of High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Developed and implemented a Middle School Survey and expanded high school Youth Risk Behavior Survey to include a sample of private schools in 1997. Efforts were taken to implement the Middle School Survey again in 1999 to assist with benchmarking data of younger youth.

Healthy Children Healthy Communities: A collaboration with the Department of Education to assure as part of the Comprehensive Student Support System early identification of risk-taking behaviors and interventions for healthy behavioral outcomes and educational achievement for Hawaii's youth. Included in this activity is the support of an information and referral hotline. The "Mothers Care Phone Line" offers statewide referrals and information. This activity is continuing.

Public Policy Reform: The Healthy Mothers Health Babies Coalition has developed a legislative package and an information package for the general public. Areas of concern include teen pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention for pregnant women, the Children's Health Insurance program, and injury prevention.

2.0 Statutory Rape

To provide education and training on the problem of statutory rape and to assure that teenage pregnancy prevention programs are expanded in scope to include men the department:

1. Collaborates with the Child Advocacy Center, County Police Departments and community members in providing training on sexual and physical abuse issues;
2. Participates in planning efforts with community groups whose goals are to decrease the incidence of sexual assault and to provide counseling and treatment to victims, families and offenders;
3. Participates with other state agencies in both juvenile and adult sex offender treatment teams to ensure that offenders receive appropriate treatment to prevent sexual abuse;
4. For family members under the jurisdiction of the department and family court, counseling is provided to educate victims, offenders and other family members in the dynamics of sexual abuse to prevent further abuse.

3.0 Domestic Violence Option

Hawaii has implemented the domestic violence option as outlined in Part B, Section 5.4.

4.0 Non-Custodial Parent Programs

Hawaii does not offer any TANF programs that encourage non-custodial parents to participate in the rearing of their children.

5.0 Family Preservation Services

Hawaii encourages and supports the formation and maintenance of two parent families through the Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO) waiver. One of the primary hypotheses of the waiver was that families need two incomes to survive in our economy. Hawaii, therefore, decided to run parallel programs for one and two parent families. There are no penalties for households that include two adults. PONO also made compliance with the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) a condition of eligibility. Families who fail to comply, without good cause, are ineligible for financial assistance until they comply. Additionally, the department has very preliminarily started discussions with CSEA regarding Welfare to Work eligibility for absent parents and financial incentives to encourage participation.

PART F CERTIFICATIONS

The State of Hawaii will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Cash assistance for TANF is provided by the Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO) program and work activity is provided by the First-to-Work (FTW) program.

The Chief Executive Officer of the State is Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The State will operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The State will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State Plan approved under part E, and the State will take such actions as are necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the State Plan under title XIX.

CERTIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

The State has given local governments and private sector organizations the opportunity to comment, as required, on the design of the services provided by the program described in this plan. The department also gives notice and seeks comments from the public any time it amends its regulations.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL PROVIDE INDIANS WITH EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE

The State will provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and not eligible for assistance under a tribal family assistance plan approved under section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.

PART F CERTIFICATIONS
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CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE AGAINST PROGRAM FRAUD AND ABUSE

The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to insure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY

The State will make the State Plan or a summary of the State Plan available to the public.

OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE WILL SCREEN FOR AND IDENTIFY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The State has elected the option to develop standards and procedures to screen for and identify individuals with a history of domestic violence, while maintaining confidentiality, so that victims of such violence who are receiving assistance may be referred for counseling and supportive services. The State has developed regulations so that victims of domestic violence may be suspended from certain program requirements, such as work requirements and child support cooperation requirements, when compliance would place the individual or other household members in danger of further domestic violence.

Certified by the Governor of Hawaii:

Date

Benjamin J. Cayetano